

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

---

Thursday, June 16. 1708.

---

I began a Subject in my last, which really had I a Pen like *Juvenal*, to sting with the keenest Satyr, or like *Ovid*, to soften your Ears with the dolefullest Lamentations, all would be wanting to set Home the Impressions of this one Subject; I mean of the fatal Effects of that horrid Combination against *Britain's* Peace, by a Set of Men among us who call themselves Christians, Protestants, Church-men, and the like: But which I call, as in my last, Abjuration-Taking *Jacobites*.

'Tis no Breach of my Charity to say; These are a Sort of Men, that the World never knew before; Language itself never formed a Word significant or expressive of their Character, Human Invention never

found an Image to represent them, or Human Imagination an Idea to conceive them by: To say they are Christians, or Protestants, or Church-men, or *Britains*, is but to foster the Delusion, and help hand it forward to impose upon the World. The Christian Religion knows no such Practice, the Protestant Profession abhors it, our Church mourns under the Scandal of it; Can there be such a thing as a Christian walking in and professing to defend a wilful and the worst Sort of Perjury, looking like a double *Janus* four ways at once, exquisite in Hypocrisy, hardened in the Practice, and insolent in the Defence of it? Can he be a Protestant that leagues with Popery, and embraces Tyranny, a *Britain* that aids

*France*

*France*, a Church man that renounces her Constitution? If these are consistent, he may be all this indeed, otherwise it is impossible.

Nor is it easie to say what he is, he is neither Christian nor Infidel; he is not a Christian, because tho' he swears by the Name of God, and lays his Hand on the Gospel, he yet defies his Authority, and tacitly denies his Omniscience, by premeditatedly resolving to perjure that Oath at the very Time of his taking of it; he cannot be an Infidel, because his Out-side puts on the Face of Religion, and he frequently puts on the Habit of an Instructor of others: He is neither Protestant or Papist, not a Protestant, for he is in Alliance with Popery to overthrow the Protestant Religion; not a Papist, for he is the first to rail at Popery, and strenuously fights with its Tenets, the better to conceal his forwarding its Interest: He is neither *High-Church-man* nor *Low Church-man*; not a *High Church-man*, for he is undermining the very Foundations of its Constitution, and helping with all his Might those that declare her Apostate and Schismatick; not a *Low Church-man*, for all his Hypocrisie is put on, in order to extirpate the very Name of Moderation, and to damn all that pretend to it for Presbyterians and Phanatics: He is neither a *Britain* nor Foreigner, he cannot pretend to be a *Britain*, without incurring the Title of the greatest Parricide in the World; for he smiles when his Country groans, he rejoices when his Country mourns, he courts Foreigners to ravish and ruin her, and he triumphs in her Bloodshed by a *French* and a barbarous Enemy: At home, he prompts Tyranny to enslave her, and sets his Hand to sell her to arbitrary, cruel and insatuated Enemies, and yet he cannot be a Foreigner himself, because he is a Native tho' a Traitor.

Thus he is neither Christian nor Infidel, neither Papist nor Protestant, neither *High Church-man* or *Low Church-man*, neither *Britain* nor Stranger, and yet he is all of them together; he is not a *Janus*, but rather like the Beast that look'd towards the four Winds— He is on this side a Revolu-

tion-Man, for he swears to the Government which is establish'd on a Revolution-Foot; on that side he owns himself a Passive-Obedience Man, and pleads for that Principle which makes the Revolution a treasonable Conspiracy and Rebellion: He is on another side an Abjuration-Man, and recognizes the QUEEN, and on the fourth side a *Jacobite*, and invites the Pretender.

Let us come to his Picture in Miniature, like *Milton's* Description of *Sin*, keeping the Gates of *Chaos* leading into the World. He is form'd like a Christian, and has the Face of a reasonable Creature; but some cross Lines in his Countenance, which Nature or Art has no Power to conceal, show to a strict Enquirer a Mind distracted with a Possession and Complication of Lunacies: His lower Parts therefore are well described by Cloven-Feet, Talons of Vultures, Snakes, Serpents, Devils, and all Sorts of Infernal Monsters, which twining about one another, form his Entrails, thro' which all his Digestures are voided, and being contaminated and partaking of the Nature of the Vessels they pass thro', the coagulated Blood is of the same Quality, stagnate Vapours of Treason, Disaffection, Jacobitism, Invasion, *French-Government*, Tyranny, and exotic Slavery, fume up into his Head, infect his Life, and he is a painted Hypocrite without, but all Viper and Poison within.

From hence the worst of Crimes extend themselves in his Practice, as naturally as Fire ascends; 'tis no Difficulty to him to take Oaths against what he really purposes to do; to abjure the Cause he from his Heart espouses, and the Person that he reserves his Allegiance for; no Parliament can make an Oath he will not take, and should you ask him to abjure GOD or Devil, the Matter is equal; for if he abjures the last, he is never the farther off from his Service; and if he does not abjure the first, he is never the nearer to regard him. Under this jury are couched and conceal'd innumerable Mischiefs, such as these; He becomes protected by the very Government he abhors, he eats the Bread of the Nation he betrays, obtains the Favour of the Prince he conspires to depose, he is cherish'd by the poor



poor well-meaning Creatures that he debauches, he is embrac'd by that Church he in his Heart disowns, and he is ignorantly receiv'd by those that in their Hearts abhor his Designs.

Under his present Hypocrisie and Treason this poor Nation now unhappily groans, and too many People fall into his Delusions, whose Darkneſs nothing can illuminate, till the *French* are at their Door, and a Popish Pretender ready to enter——

And this has a double Effect, *First*, it awakens and allarms the well-meaning deluded People, and brings them to their Sences, perhaps but just early enough to save their Country. *Secondly*, it detects the Hypocrite, who thinking his Hour is come, shews himself in his own Colours, embraces invading Tyranny, thinking it is strong enough to protect him, but deceived in the Issues of Providence, he falls into the Hands of Justice, and makes his Exit like a Traitor at the Gallows.

And really, Gentlemen, tho' this is not always our Happiness, yet I must say, if this be not the End of these People, unless their Conversion should anticipate their Fate; I say, unless this be the End of these Sort of People, I see no Medium between it and our Destruction, for their Arts are subtil and infernal, their Masks cover'd with imperceptible Whiteness, they are the Saints of the Day, and our Delusions are in no small Danger of proving mortal.

And now I have describ'd these People, with what Shame and Blushing should these People look back upon their Conduct, who have joyn'd with such People as these in their Elections, and given their Votes with, much less for such a wretched Sort of Folks; if any Man, that calls himself a Protestant or a Dissenter, has voted for such amphibious Christians as these, he would do well to look back upon his Conduct, and examine how far, upon serious Reflection he can justify his Management to his Country's Safety, and to his own Conscience.

But what if such People should be chosen, says an Objector now, what will you say then, when you find them uppermost,

and the Strain of the House running that way, you, like all the Scribblers of the Age, will fawn upon and flatter them, call them your infallible Representative, and cry up all for Gospel or for Law that they enact, let it be which way it will, for we have never found a Pamphleteer of you all, but have cring'd to Parliamentary Authority, let it go which way it will.

This is an ill-natur'd Suggestion, and favours more of a rash Charge, than a rational Argument——It may be true perhaps, that the Writers of this Age or every Age may have turn'd their Tale, and changed their Note as Occasions have serv'd them, have flatter'd, fawn'd and cring'd; to day applaud King *William*, to morrow lampoon him; to day applaud this Party, to morrow that as they find Prosperity buoy them up, or Authority back them.

But I bless GOD, I have hitherto acted the plain Dealer; I have never baulk'd speaking Truth, when it has been more dangerous than it is now, and may the Parliament make a Law that he shall die at the Gallows, who baulks Truth for Fear of Power, or flatters an Illegal or Arbitrary Administration, and I'll be content to be the first Example, if I appear Guilty.

And therefore let me before-hand take the Freedom to say, and I'll never grutch, *GOD Almighty assisting me*, to suffer for the Words; if ever we have a *Tory, High-Flying* Parliament, this Nation will be betray'd and sold by them to Tyranny and *French* Government, our Liberties will be invaded, our Sovereign insulted, our Laws be abused, our Treasure be expuſted, honest Men will be crush'd, Knaves be advanced, and in short the Nation will be undone.

Nothing but Violence to oppose Oppression can save us, and that I am sure is as lawful to a House full of Tyrants, as against one Tyrant, for it shall ever remain a Maxim to me, that Tyranny is to be resisted, let it come in what Shape, be sheltered under what Pretence, or be back'd with what Authority soever.

If